

The rest of the day was taken up with government quizzing of "unprejudiced" jurors, who already had made up their minds what they were going to do. Most of them were business men, and apparently looked at the matter in a different light from the "farmer jury" the government already has coralled.

One of them, Alexander Irwin caused a mild surprise by his extreme state of ignorance.

Irwin is one of the proprietors of the largest wholesale and retail meat markets in Chicago.

Yet he had the vaguest ideas on the beef trust. He had heard of such an institution—oh, yes, but only in a vague sort of a way.

One of Irwin's friends is employed at the "yards", too, but he never told Irwin anything about the financial methods of the packers.

The court excused Mr. Irwin—for cause, and apparently much to the disgust of the defense, whose attorneys seemed to regard him as an ideal juror.

## BRITISH PANIC

Max Hayes.

According to one of the best informed labor party members of parliament, from whom I have just received a letter, the British government is panic-stricken, due to the threatening industrial upheavals that can hardly be postponed longer than the holidays, and the dimensions of which are difficult to measure.

The action of the royal commission, which was appointed to

investigate the grievances of the railway and dock workers who paralyzed transportation by a great national strike last August, in recommending that prevailing conditions should continue until next May, has created a storm of indignation. Scores of meetings are being held all over the United Kingdom to denounce the decision of the commission, and everywhere the workers are charging that the liberal politicians have deliberately betrayed them. Almost without exception the mass meetings of railway men, dockers and allied workers demand that another strike be called unless the railway managers immediately raise wages, grant a standard workday and abolish many of the petty abuses of which the men complain.

The national labor officials are now negotiating for concessions, with little hope of being successful, and it is the general impression that a second strike will be inaugurated which will involve 250,000 to 300,000 employees.

Meanwhile the government is declared by labor members of parliament to be making warlike preparations. It is said that army officers have made new maps of London, Liverpool and other large cities with a view to posting soldiers at all strategic points and expediting the removal of arms, stores, etc., with as little delay as possible. A list of all food selling houses has been compiled, as well as parks, vacant lots and open spaces, as though the authorities are expecting a siege.